

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05 EB-08 CPR-01 DODE-00 /064 W
-----084880 280944Z /21/72

R 270454Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7224
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PINT, TW
SUBJECT: RONALD REAGAN'S VISIT TO TAIPEI

1. GOVERNOR REAGAN RECEIVED A PREDICTABLY WARM
WELCOME IN TAIPEI DURING HIS VISIT FROM APRIL 19-21,
INCLUDING A FORMAL DINNER WITH PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-
KAN, WHICH CAME AS CLOSE AS THINGS COME HERE TO AN
OFFICIAL STATE DINNER. DURING THE VISIT REAGAN
PRAISED GROC ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DENOUNCED
NORMALIZATION IF IT WOULD INVOLVE A CHANGE IN US-ROC
RELATIONS. HIS ARGUMENTS FOR THE STATUS QUO AND
INDICATIONS OF U.S. POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED
RECOGNITION OF THE ROC WERE WELL RECEIVED BY SYMPA-
THETIC AUDIENCES. REAGAN SPOKE AT AN INFORMAL
MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER AND A LUNCHEON
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ADDRESS TO HIS HOSTS, THE CHINESE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

2. DURING HIS VISIT REAGAN MET WITH PRESIDENT YEN
CHIA-KAN AND PRESIDENT-ELECT CHIANG CHING-KUO AND
TOURED ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN KAOHSIUNG AND CULTURAL
ESTABLISHMENTS IN TAIPEI. AMBASSADOR UNGER MET WITH

GOVERNOR REAGAN TWICE, AT YEN'S DINNER (WHERE THERE WERE NO SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS) AND DURING THE GOVERNOR'S CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 21, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND SOME MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. DURING THE CALL REAGAN BROUGHT UP THE APPREHENSION EXPRESSED TO HIM ELSEWHERE IN THE FAR EAST OVER THE PERCEIVED LACK OF U.S. CONCERN FOR THE REGION. AMBASSADOR UNGER INDICATED THAT SUCH FEARS WERE OF CONCERN TO THE U.S., AND CITED THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THIS PROBLEM AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSIONS CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG, AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S STATEMENTS ABOUT SECURITY IN THE WEST PACIFIC, THE JOINT US-SOUTH KOREAN EXERCISES, DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN'S ASIAN VISITS AND THE PROJECTED VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AS EVIDENCE OF U.S. EFFORTS TO ALLAY THESE FEARS.

3. GOVERNOR REAGAN INDICATED HIS HOPE THAT THE U.S. PLANNED TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO'S INAUGURATION ON MAY 20. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE GROG HAS INFORMED US THAT IT DID NOT WANT SPECIAL ENVOYS, AND THAT IN LIGHT OF ITS WISHES (WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED TO WASHINGTON), THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD DESIGNATED THE AMBASSADOR AS THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INAUGURATION.

4. COMMENT: REAGAN'S VISIT WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED
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AND HIS SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE WAS OPENLY ENCOURAGED BY SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCES. WHILE HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZATION WITH THE PRC, HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOOD OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED IN POLLS, ETC., TENDED TO REINFORCE CONVICTIONS WIDELY HELD HERE THAT THE GROG STILL HAS A STRONG RESERVOIR OF SUPPORT AMONG AMERICANS WHICH MAY ULTIMATELY PREVENT SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. (REAGAN ALSO CITED U.S. NOVEMBER ELECTIONS AS DETERRENT TO ACTION ON NORMALIZATION IN COMING MONTHS.) REAGAN'S OWN POSITION DID NOT OPPOSE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, PROVIDING THAT THIS DID NOT JEOPARDIZE THE U.S. "CLOSE FRIENDSHIP" WITH THE ROC. UNGER

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